Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A waveform generating device comprising:

storage means for storing waveform data of a chain of a plurality of separated sound components;

performance data input means for inputting performance data;

time compression and expansion percentage acquisition means for acquiring a time compression and an expansion percentage of each of the separated sound components of the waveform data stored in the storage means based on a first series of the performance data; and

waveform generation means for generating new waveform data by compressing and expanding the stored waveform data based on the time compression and the expansion percentage for each of the separated sound components in accordance with a second series of performance data that have been input by the performance data input means.

2. (Currently Amended) A waveform generating device according to claim 1, further comprising:

a second storage means for storing pitch information that corresponds to each of ~~the~~ separated sound components of the first performance data that have been input by the performance data input means; and

pitch information control means for changing a pitch information of the waveform data based on the pitch information stored in the second storage means in accordance with the second performance data that have been input by the performance data input means.

3. (Currently Amended) A waveform generating device according to claim 1, further comprising:

a second storage means for storing pitch information that corresponds to each of ~~the~~ separated sound components of the first performance data that have been input by the performance data input means; and

pitch information control means for changing a pitch of a separated sound component of waveform data based on the pitch information, wherein a pitch information of the waveform data in the separated sound component is gradually altered in accordance with the second performance data that have been input by the performance data input means.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A waveform generating device according to claim 1, further comprising:~~ A waveform generating device comprising:

storage means for storing waveform data of a chain of a plurality of separated sound components;

performance data input means for inputting performance data;

time compression and expansion percentage acquisition means for acquiring a time compression and an expansion percentage of each of the separated sound components of the waveform data stored in the storage means based on a first series of the performance data;

waveform generation means for generating new waveform data by compressing and expanding the stored waveform data based on the time compression and the expansion percentage for each of the separated sound components in accordance with a second series of performance data that have been input by the performance data input means;

second storage means for storing volume information that corresponds to each of ~~the~~ separated sound components of the first performance data that have been input by the performance data input means; and

volume information control means for changing a volume information of the waveform data based on the volume information stored in the second storage means in accordance with the

second performance data that have been input by the performance data input means.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A waveform generating device according to claim 1, further comprising:~~ A waveform generating device comprising:

storage means for storing waveform data of a chain of a plurality of separated sound components;

performance data input means for inputting performance data;

time compression and expansion percentage acquisition means for acquiring a time compression and an expansion percentage of each of the separated sound components of the waveform data stored in the storage means based on a first series of the performance data;

waveform generation means for generating new waveform data by compressing and expanding the stored waveform data based on the time compression and the expansion percentage for each of the separated sound components in accordance with a second series of performance data that have been input by the performance data input means;

second storage means for storing volume information that corresponds to each of ~~the~~ separated sound components of the first performance data that have been input by the performance data input means; and

volume information control means for changing a volume information of a separated sound component of waveform data based on the volume information stored in the second storage means, wherein a volume information of the waveform data in the separated sound component is gradually altered in accordance with the second performance data that have been input by the performance data input means.

6.-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) A method for generating a waveform comprising:

storing waveform data of a chain of a plurality of separated sound components;

inputting performance data;

acquiring a time compression and an expansion percentage of each of the separated sound

components of the waveform data based on a first series of the performance data; and

generating new waveform data by compressing and expanding the stored waveform data based on the time compression and the expansion percentage for each of the separated sound components in accordance with a second series of performance data that have been input.

15. (Original) A method for generating a waveform comprising:

storing waveform data of a chain of a plurality of separated sound components;

inputting performance data;

storing first performance data that have been input;

detecting a sound production length of second performance data that have been input;

updating the first performance data based on the sound production length;

acquiring a time compression and an expansion percentage of each of the separated sound components of waveform data based on the first performance data that have been updated; and

generating a waveform in conformance with the time compression and the expansion percentage and in accordance with second performance data that are input.

16. (Original) A waveform generating device comprising:

a storage device for storing waveform data of a chain of a plurality of separated sound components;

a performance data input device for inputting performance data ;

a time compression and expansion percentage acquiring device for acquiring a time compression and an expansion percentage of each of the separated sound components of the waveform data stored in the storage device based on a first series of the performance data; and

a waveform generator for generating new waveform data by compressing and expanding the stored waveform data based on the time compression and the expansion percentage for each of the separated sound components in accordance with a second series of performance data that have been input by the performance data input device.

17. (Original) A waveform generating device comprising:

a waveform data storage device for storing waveform data of a chain of a plurality of separated sound components;

a performance data input device for inputting performance data;

a performance data storage device for storing first performance data that have been input by the performance data input device;

a performance data detection device for detecting a sound production length of second performance data that have been input by the performance data input device;

a performance data updating device for updating the first performance data based on the sound production length;

a time compression and expansion percentage acquisition device for acquiring a time compression and an expansion percentage of each of the separated sound components of waveform data based on the first performance data that have been updated; and

a waveform generator for generating a waveform in conformance with the time compression and the expansion percentage and in accordance with second performance data that are input by the performance data input device.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as recited in claim 14~~ A method for generating a waveform comprising:

storing waveform data of a chain of a plurality of separated sound components;

inputting performance data;

acquiring a time compression and an expansion percentage of each of the separated sound components of the waveform data based on a first series of the performance data; and

generating new waveform data by compressing and expanding the stored waveform data based on the time compression and the expansion percentage for each of the separated sound components in accordance with a second series of performance data that have been input,

wherein each sound component corresponds to a single syllable of a word in a song.

19. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 14, wherein storing waveform data comprises storing key pressing and key releasing time data for a plurality of keys of a keyboard.

20. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 14, wherein storing waveform data comprises storing data corresponding to a time period from a key pressing time to a key releasing time for each key of a plurality of keys on a keyboard.

21. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 14, wherein storing waveform data comprises storing, for each key of a plurality of keys on a keyboard, data corresponding to a time period from a pressing of the key to a pressing of a next key.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as recited in claim 15~~ A method for generating a waveform comprising:

storing waveform data of a chain of a plurality of separated sound components;

inputting performance data;

storing first performance data that have been input;

detecting a sound production length of second performance data that have been input;

updating the first performance data based on the sound production length;

acquiring a time compression and an expansion percentage of each of the separated sound components of waveform data based on the first performance data that have been updated; and

generating a waveform in conformance with the time compression and the expansion percentage and in accordance with second performance data that are input,

the method further comprising error processing for a condition in which the second performance data corresponds to a waveform segment that advances slower than the first performance data, by repeating a number of waveforms that are contained in ~~the loop~~ a loop segment.

23. (Previously Presented) ~~A method as recited in claim 15~~ A method for generating a waveform comprising:

storing waveform data of a chain of a plurality of separated sound components;

inputting performance data;

storing first performance data that have been input;

detecting a sound production length of second performance data that have been input;

updating the first performance data based on the sound production length;

acquiring a time compression and an expansion percentage of each of the separated sound components of waveform data based on the first performance data that have been updated; and

generating a waveform in conformance with the time compression and the expansion percentage and in accordance with second performance data that are input,

the method further comprising error processing for a condition in which the second performance data corresponds to a waveform segment that advances faster than the first performance data, by attenuating the generation of a waveform.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~A device as recited in claim 16~~ A waveform generating device comprising:

a storage device for storing waveform data of a chain of a plurality of separated sound components;

a performance data input device for inputting performance data;

a time compression and expansion percentage acquiring device for acquiring a time compression and an expansion percentage of each of the separated sound components of the waveform data stored in the storage device based on a first series of the performance data; and

a waveform generator for generating new waveform data by compressing and expanding the stored waveform data based on the time compression and the expansion percentage for each of the separated sound components in accordance with a second series of performance data that have been input by the performance data input device,

wherein each sound component corresponds to a single syllable of a word in a song.

25. (Previously Presented) A device as recited in claim 16, wherein a storage device for storing waveform data comprises a storage device for storing key pressing and key releasing time data for a plurality of keys of a keyboard.

26. (Previously Presented) A device as recited in claim 16, wherein a storage device for storing waveform data comprises a storage device for storing data corresponding to a time period from a key pressing time to a key releasing time for each key of a plurality of keys on a keyboard.

27. (Previously Presented) A device as recited in claim 16, wherein a storage device for storing waveform data comprises a storage device for storing, for each key of a plurality of keys on a keyboard, data corresponding to a time period from a pressing of the key to a pressing of a next key.

28. (Currently Amended) ~~A device as recited in claim 17~~ A waveform generating device comprising:

a waveform data storage device for storing waveform data of a chain of a plurality of separated sound components;

a performance data input device for inputting performance data;

a performance data storage device for storing first performance data that have been input by the performance data input device;

a performance data detection device for detecting a sound production length of second performance data that have been input by the performance data input device;

a performance data updating device for updating the first performance data based on the sound production length;

a time compression and expansion percentage acquisition device for acquiring a time compression and an expansion percentage of each of the separated sound components of waveform data based on the first performance data that have been updated; and

a waveform generator for generating a waveform in conformance with the time compression and the expansion percentage and in accordance with second performance data that

are input by the performance data input device,

wherein the waveform generator further comprising an error processing routine for a condition in which the second performance data corresponds to a waveform segment that advances slower than the first performance data, by repeating a number of waveforms that are contained in ~~the loop~~ a loop segment.

29. (Currently Amended) ~~A device as recited in claim 17~~ A waveform generating device comprising:

a waveform data storage device for storing waveform data of a chain of a plurality of separated sound components;

a performance data input device for inputting performance data;

a performance data storage device for storing first performance data that have been input by the performance data input device;

a performance data detection device for detecting a sound production length of second performance data that have been input by the performance data input device;

a performance data updating device for updating the first performance data based on the sound production length;

a time compression and expansion percentage acquisition device for acquiring a time compression and an expansion percentage of each of the separated sound components of waveform data based on the first performance data that have been updated; and

a waveform generator for generating a waveform in conformance with the time compression and the expansion percentage and in accordance with second performance data that are input by the performance data input device,

wherein the waveform generator further comprises an error processing routine for a condition in which the second performance data corresponds to a waveform segment that advances faster than the first performance data, by attenuating the generation of a waveform.

30. (New) The waveform generating device according to claim 1,

wherein the first series of the performance data comprises a plurality of separated sound components corresponding to the separated sound components of the waveform data, and

wherein the second series of the performance data comprises a plurality of separated sound components corresponding to the separated sound components of the waveform data.

31. (New) The waveform generating device according to claim 1, wherein the second series of the performance data is input after the first series of the performance data is input.